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U R G E N T

FIRST LEAD CUBA

WASHINGTON, JAN. 25 (AP)—SEN. GEORGE D. AIKEN, R-VT., AFTER A BRIEFING BY SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK, SAID TODAY THE RUSSIANS HAVE AN "ENORMOUSLY STRONG MILITARY AND POLITICAL BASE IN CUBA," AND IT IS GROWING STRONGER.

AIKEN DECLINED TO DISCUSS WHAT RUSK AND JOHN A. MCCONE, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR, HAD TOLD A SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE AT THE CLOSE DOOR MEETING.

BUT, HE SAID, "I THINK RUSSIA HAS BUILT AN ENORMOUSLY STRONG MILITARY AND POLITICAL BASE IN CUBA, MUCH STRONGER THAN IT WAS SIX MONTHS AGO.

"THE STRENGTHENING OF THIS MILITARY-POLITICAL FORTRESS IS CONTINUING."

PRESIDENT KENNEDY HAS SAID THERE HAS BEEN NO NEW MILITARY BUILDUP IN CUBA.

JA 1240 PES